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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

ILLICIT TRAFFIC

South Africa

A copy of the relevant chapter of the Annual Report for 1983 is communicated herewith.

The present document is based on data provided by States both Parties and non-Parties to the relevant treaties on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the designations employed and the presentation of material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or any authority, or concerning the delimitation of any frontiers or boundaries.

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CHAPTER VIII. ILLICIT TRAFFIC (Form of Annual Reports E/NR. Form/1983)

Paragraphs

A. GENERAL

90. Illicit traffic in drugs: Yes.

Illicit cultivation, harvesting, manufacture; diversion from licit channels

91a-92b. No.

93a-b. Vast areas of illicit cultivation of cannabis were detected in the provinces of Natal and Eastern and Northern Transvaal. Eradication campaigns are undertaken regularly by the Police, assisted by the Air Force; the plants are uprooted by hand.

94a-b. -

95a-b. Yes, see para. 93a-b.

96a-97b. No.

Smuggling and trafficking

98a-99. In 1983, there was a decrease of methaqualone smuggling into South Africa mainly due to the fact that large quantities destined for the country were confiscated by the police of neighbouring states, and that traffickers were apprehended before entering South Africa. Methaqualone (Mandrax tablets) nevertheless continued to be smuggled into the country by air and sea from India, Europe and Zambia via Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland. Cannabis was smuggled out to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Cannabis, illicitly cultivated in South Africa and neighbouring states, was distributed by road traffic to all parts of the country.

100a. Drugs seized in 1983:

	Weight/quantity	Number of arrests
Opium	29 g	15
Cocaine	174 g	16
Cannabis plants	655 470 kg	4 098
Methaqualone (Mandrax)	154 349 doses	1 630
LSD	63 doses	15
Other psychotropic substances	37 387 doses	89

100b. In 1983, there was a considerable decrease in the number of Mandrax tablets seized (1982 - 502 562 tablets; 1983 - 154 349 tablets) whereas the number of persons arrested in connection with Mandrax tablets increased from 581 persons in 1982 to 1 650 in 1983.

Prices and purity of illicit drugs

101a-b.

Wholesale:	R	US$*/
Opium	100	97 per g
Cocaine	50 - 100	46.50 - 93 per g
Cannabis herb	200	186 per bag (8 kg)
Methaqualone (Mandrax)	1	0.93 per dose
LSD	6	5.58 per unit

Retail:

Opium	200	186 per g
Cocaine	200 - 250	186 - 232.50 per g
Cannabis herb	2 000	1 860 per bag (8 kg)
Methaqualone (Mandrax)	10 - 12	9.30 - 11.16 per dose
LSD	10 - 12	9.30 - 11.16 per unit

101c. -

101d. Diluents and adulterants: sugar and milk powder.

Prosecutions

102. 42 673 persons were prosecuted in connection with drug offences. See also paragraph 100a.

103a-b. Predominantly adolescents, but also all age groups from all social strata.

104a-b. Foreign citizens from Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia were involved in the illicit traffic in methaqualone and cannabis.

B. ORGANIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT

105. Organizations responsible: South African Narcotics Bureau.

106. Specialized units: see para. 105 above.

107. The South African Police are assisted by: South African Railway Police; Customs and Excise Department, Department of Health; Department of Prisons; Defence Force Department.

108a-c. The office ensuring liaison on a national basis does not form part of a service responsible for the National Central Bureau of ICPO/Interpol; however, it uses its channels and provides it with current information.

109a-b. Liaison exists with ICPO/Interpol; the Customs Union; the United Nations; drug law enforcement authorities of neighbouring countries.

Suggestions

110a-b. -

*/ Rate of exchange: R 1 = US$0.93